

REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 2-19 and 21-23 remain pending in this application. No claims have been canceled or added.

35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 2-19 and 21-23 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over McCloghrie et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,035,105) in view of Chase et al (U.S. Patent No. 6,081,524). These rejections are traversed as follows.

Applicants submit that the previously pending claims patentably define the present invention over the cited art. Nevertheless, the claims have been amended to more clearly define over the cited art.

For example, claim 2 now recites:

A packet communication apparatus for transmitting a packet from a first network comprising a first Virtual Private Network (VPN) to a second network comprising a plurality of VPNs, comprising:

a receiving unit which receives a packet including a destination Internet Protocol (IP) address Layer 3 (L3) or higher, and a first VPN identifier on Layer 2 (L2) used to identify the first VPN in the first network;

a packet generating unit which generates a second VPN identifier on L2 used to identify one of the plurality of VPNs in the second network based on the destination IP address on L3 and the first VPN identifier on L2 included in the received packet; and

a transmitter which transmits a packet having added thereto said second VPN identifier on L2 generated in the packet generating unit.

Therefore, claim 2 clearly recites a receiving unit which receives a packet including a destination Internet Protocol (IP) address Layer 3 (L3) or higher, and a

first VPN identifier on Layer 2 (L2) used to identify the first VPN in the first network. Claim 2 also recites that a transmitter transmits a packet having added thereto the second VPN identifier on L2 generated in the packet generating unit. Similar limitations have been made to the other claims. The claims have also been amended to recite that the destination IP address on L3 and the first VPN identifier on L2 are included in the received packet. Thus, the destination IP address on L3 and the first VPN identifier on L2, which are included in the received packet, are used to generate a second VPN identifier on L2.

In the response to Arguments section on page 6 of the Office Action, the Examiner states the following "[i]n addition, current claim limitations, directed to IP environment and use of VPN identifier read on the operation of Prior Art system as shown on Fig. 4 and described on page 13 of disclosure (i.e., in the present application). It should now be clear to the Examiner that the present claims do not read on Fig. 4, or page 13 of the present specification, or any of the art of record.

Interview

Applicants request that the Examiner conduct an interview with the undersigned in order to expedite prosecution of this application. The Examiner is hereby invited to contact the undersigned by telephone in order to arrange an appropriate date and time for such interview.

501.37526CX1

In view of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that a timely Notice of Allowance be issued in this case. Please charge any shortage of fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, or credit any overpayment of fees, to Deposit Account 50-1417.

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